OIPE JC17 MAR 22 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: UIOWA-0055 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of		
Johna LEDDY, Wayne L. GELLETT and Drew C. DUNWOODY		Group Art Unit: 1745
Serial No.:	10/684,802	
Filed:	October 15, 2003	Customer No.: 34610

For: SELF-HYDRATING MEMBRANE ELECTRODE ASSEMBLIES FOR FUEL CELLS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the indicated date. Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered. This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that information cited in the statement is considered to be and/or is material to patentability, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that was cited or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. §120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

X 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (i) within three months of the U.S. filing date of a U.S. application other than a CPA continued prosecution application under §1.53(d) OR (ii) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application OR (iii) **before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.** No certification or fee is required. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).

_ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection OR Notice of Allowance OR an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).

_ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a

counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).

_ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

_ c. Attached is our check no. _____ in the amount of $180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 16-0607 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

_ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a Final Rejection OR Notice of Allowance OR an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee. Attached is our check no. ____ in the amount of $180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 16-0607 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

_ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).

_ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

_ 4. Others:

X 5. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

Steven J. Helmer

Donald R. McPhail
Registration No. 35,811
Steven J. Helmer
Registration No. 40,475

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701
Date: March 22, 2004

DRM\SJH:dcp

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(PTO-1449)

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ATTY. DOCKET NO.	APPLN. SERIAL NO.
UIOWA-0055	10/684,802

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FILING DATE	GROUP
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

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